

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Note that the word “set” is now used in the claims. This word is to be interpreted as one or more.

Claims 1, 7, and 13 are currently being amended.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 18 have been canceled

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 17 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected over Hafner et al. in view of Noori. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Hafner et al. relates to a transaction processing system for processing business transactions between a supplier and a retailer wherein the system receives point of sale data and forecast data and then generates electronic orders for approval. A system administrator is provided to manage security for the system per column 7 of Hafner. There is no disclosure of managing an independent supply chain system that includes distributors, much less registering those distributors, receiving from a plurality of independent outlets distribution management rights for an independent supply chain manager, or the supply chain management computer determining different amounts of the products to distribute to the different independent outlets, for example based on a forecast developed using POS sales data from the outlets, and the independent supply chain manager selecting distributors from the plurality of distributors to distribute the different amounts of the products to the independent outlets, for example based on on-time performance of the respective distributors or the proximity to the respective outlets, or the cost, or some other relevant criteria.

Noori Chapters 13-15 is focuses on different techniques for matching manufacturing capacity to demand, and has no relation to distributors or distribution or selection. Specifically, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a supply chain system that includes

distributors, much less registering those distributors, receiving from a plurality of independent outlets distribution management rights for an independent supply chain manager, or the supply chain management computer determining different amounts of the products to distribute to the different independent outlets and the independent supply chain manager selecting distributors from the plurality of distributors to distribute the different amounts of the products to the independent outlets.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested and early passage to issue of the application is solicited.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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